



SKEGNESS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
for the year 1939.

To The Chairman and Members of the Skegness
Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my fifth Annual
Report.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	4,411.788
Population (Census 1931)	9,121
Population (Local Census 1932)	8,500
Number of inhabited houses (1939)	3,191
Rateable Value 31st December, 1939	£120,467
Product of a penny rate	£465

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The chief occupation of the inhabitants is that of
catering for visitors, Boarding House, Hotel Proprietors
and Retail Shopkeepers.

There is no occupation in the town which has a
detrimental effect on public health.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS DURING THE YEAR.

	Total	Males	Females	
Births	133	71	62	Birth rate 13.3
Deaths	116	60	56	Death rate 11.6

Number of women dying in from Sepsis Nil
consequence of childbirth; from other causes Nil

Death-rate of infants under one year of age, per
1,000 live births: 5. 37.6

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	12
" " Measles (all ages)	Nil
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil

Diphtheria was prevalent in November when about
forty cases were reported. A carrier which it is believed
was the cause of the outbreak was discovered and isolated
and this cut short what might have been a serious epidemic.
After the isolation of the carrier no further cases were
reported.

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0								
1								
5	1			1				
15		2		1				
25	1	1						
35	2	2			1	2		
45	2					1		
55					1			
65 & upwards								
Totals	6	5		2	2	3		

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during the year. The figures are:

	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total deaths
Scarlet Fever	13	10	
Diphtheria	32	27	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2		
Erysipelas			
Pneumonia	10		
Cerebro Spinal Fever			
Acute Poliomyelitis			
Puerperal Pyrexia			
Totals	<u>57</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>1</u>

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM. Two cases notified were treated at home satisfactorily.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS of the AUTHORITY:

Medical Officer of Health, and Superintendent of Isolation Hospital Dr. D. Fraser Menzies, M.B., Ch B. (St. And.)

Sanitary Inspector, Superintendent of house and trade refuse removal, S. James, (1) Cert. Royal Sanitary Institute. (2) Cert. Royal Sanitary Institute. Meat and Food.

Matron of Isolation Hospital Miss B.M. Herratt, State Reg. Nurse.

NURSING.

I am indebted to Mrs Hillsdon, the secretary to the District Nurse Association, for the following reports of the District Nurses' Work:-

General Nursing Visits	3,767
Ante Natal Visits	300
Maternity and Midwifery cases	94

I consider the above figures speak highly of the good work done by our two District Nurses.

SKEGNESS INFANT WELFARE.

The Centre is now in charge of the Health Visitor, Miss Carter, and six voluntary helpers attend each Friday.

The average attendance has been 67 Mothers and 84 Children each week.

In December the work was transferred to the new premises in Cecil Avenue, and the better accommodation has been much appreciated. Dr Wilson attends each Friday afternoon from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and also the Ante-Natal Clinic every first and third Friday mornings of each month from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. A qualified dentist attends fortnightly.

Fresh Milk and Virol are provided free in necessitous cases.

A tea party was given by the Committee and friends in November which the Mothers and Children much enjoyed.

I am indebted to Mrs R.H. Jenkins for the above excellent report, and for which I tender my grateful thanks. I also wish to thank the nurses and Committee of the Association for their excellent work throughout the year.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The hospital for infectious diseases is situated in an isolated position on the Wainfleet Road, and is about 2 miles from the town.

There are 16 beds available for residents and visitors.

The majority of cases, about 75 per cent., treated at the hospital, are visitors to the town.

The buildings consist of two ward blocks, administrative block, also outhouses, and housing for steam disinfectors.

I must express my thanks to the matron (Miss B.M. Herratt) for the skill and careful attention given to all patients whilst in hospital.

The Hospital proved adequate during the year to deal with all cases of infectious disease which arose.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

There is no local centre available for the treatment of venereal diseases, one ought to be provided.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The County Council provide for the treatment of tuberculosis. The nearest clinic is at Spilsby, and the nearest Sanatorium at Louth. A clinic for this purpose is, I understand, to be established at Skegness.

GENERAL HEALTH.

The general health of the town has been good during the year.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Soil and surface water sewers have been laid and extended to meet the needs of the district as occasion demanded. The erection of the new sewage disposal works was completed and in use by the end of the year.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Steps have been taken, when sewers have been available, to connect property to such sewers and provide W.C.'s in lieu of pails and privies. The number of closets on the conservancy system converted to the water carriage system will be found in the report of the Sanitary Inspector.

SCAVENGING.

The removal and disposal of house and trade refuse and the cleansing of earth closets, privies, and cesspools in the area is carried out by the Council.

This work was carried out during the year under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector in a most efficient manner.

Owing to the available and suitable tipping sites becoming exhausted it will be necessary to provide some other means of refuse disposal, and it is I think desirable in a health resort such as this to provide mechanical means of separation and incineration as a method of refuse disposal.

SANITARY INSPECTION of the AREA.

A classified statement of the number of premises visited, the defects or nuisances discovered, and the action or result of action taken in regard to these will be found in the report of the Sanitary Inspector.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Periodical observations are taken of the works chimneys in the area. Five informal notices were served, and these were complied with.

No legal proceedings were necessary.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary conditions and water supply of the public elementary schools are excellent.

The County School Medical Officer regularly inspects the schools and the children. Any treatment required can be obtained through the medical practitioners in the town and through the various schemes provided by the Education Committee. As in the case of Infant Welfare Centres close co-operation between the Medical Officers and the Medical Practitioners is essential for efficient service.

All the pupils in the elementary schools are supplied with milk each morning.

HOUSING.

Sixty-nine licences were issued for the temporary use of houses by persons in excess of the permitted number under section 61 Housing Act, 1936. The general housing conditions are good, there being no houses overcrowded at the end of the year.

REPORT ON HOUSING ACTS INSPECTIONS.

The number of inspections made and the action taken will be found in the tabulated report.

SHOPS ACT.

Inspections are made from time to time and the

action taken will be found in the tabulated report.

MEAT AND FOOD.

The ~~three~~ private slaughter-houses situate in Richmond Drive are visited by your Council's Sanitary Inspector during hours of slaughter.

This takes place almost daily in the season and in winter on three days each week.

Shops, stalls, vehicles and places where food is stored or prepared for sale have been regularly inspected.

MILK SUPPLY.

All farms and dairies in the district have been frequently visited. All the cowsheds and dairies are of good construction, and every effort is made to attain a high standard of cleanliness.

Samples of milk were frequently taken from all sources and submitted for examination. In any case of milk being found not to be of the required standard action was at once taken. I am glad to say such cases were very rare.

MILK SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS ORDER, 1936.

There is one licensed producer, and nine licensed purveyors of Pasteurised Milk, four licensed dealers of Tuberculin Tested Milk and one licensed dealer in Accredited Milk. One licence is granted to an establishment to bottle accredited Milk.

BAKEHOUSES.

Frequent visits have been paid to the bakehouses in the district. These are clean and well kept.

There are no underground bakehouses.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS.

The County Council is the Authority for carrying out this act.

WORKSHOPS.

These were inspected periodically, and it was found in one or two instances that the attention of the occupier had to be drawn to the uncleanness of sanitary conveniences or want of limewashing of internal wall surfaces. These matters were put right without resorting to formal measures. The work carried on is mainly motor repairs, dressmaking and millinery, cycle repairs, joinery photography and upholstery.

I append the Sanitary Inspector's report and would take this opportunity of stating my pleasure in carrying out my duties under a Council so earnest in the desire to ensure perfectly healthy conditions for the town.

I am Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

D. FRASER MENZIES, M.B., Ch.B. (St. And.)

Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Report of work done by the Sanitary Inspector
for the year 1939.

TOTAL NO. of NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR. 42

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| (1) By the Local Authority | Nil |
| (2) By other Local Authorities | Nil |
| (3) By other bodies or persons | 42 |

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.-

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (1) a, Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 362 |
| b, Number of inspections made for the purpose. | 622 |
| (2) a, Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above), which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925. | 9 |
| b, Number of inspections made for the purpose. | 22 |
| (3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | 2 |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceeding sub-head.) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. | 7 |

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.	215
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR:-

- | | |
|---|-----|
| a, Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 36 of the Housing Act, 1936. | |
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:- | |
| a, by owners | Nil |
| b, by Local Authority in default of owners | Nil |
| (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts. | |
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. | 4 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice:- | |
| a, by owners | 4 |
| b, by Local Authority in default of owners | Nil |
| (c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 | |
| (1) Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | Nil |

(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.	Nil
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses subject to undertakings.	Nil
d,	Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:-	
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made.	2
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit.	Nil

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936.—OVERCROWDING.

a,	(1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	Nil
	(11) Number of families dwelling therein	Nil
	(111) Number of persons dwelling therein	Nil
b,	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.	2
c,	(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.	2
	(11) Number of persons concerned in such cases	19
d,	Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved	Nil
e,	Number of Licences granted under Section 61	69

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS, TENTS, VANS, etc.

Number	inspected during year	3,075
"	of nuisances therefrom abated	27
"	removed from district	2,925

BAKEHOUSES.

Number	in district	12
"	of underground bakehouses	Nil
"	of inspections	48
Contraventions	of Factory Acts	7
Defects	remedied	7

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES

Number	on register	3
"	of inspections	398
Contraventions	of by-laws	2
Defects	remedied	2

COWSHEDS

Number	on register	13
"	of inspections	quarterly
Contraventions	of regulations	3
Contraventions	remedied	3
Number	of milch cows in district	approx 156

DAIRIES AND MILK SHOPS

Number	on register	18
"	of inspections	Quarterly
Contraventions	of regulations	2
Contraventions	remedied	2
Any instance	of disease attributed during the Year to milk.	No.

Carcases inspected and condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs.
Number killed(if known).	297	3	50	2250	980
Number inspected.	290	3	50	2197	970
All diseases except T.B.					
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	3	Nil
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned.... ..	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis.	.1	Nil	Nil	.13	Nil
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>					
Whole carcase condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Also surrendered; 4 gallons welks.
2 tins veal.
52 stones fish.
14 lbs preserved meat.
50 lbs butter.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Number of premises in district	17
" of inspections	68
Contraventions of by-laws	3
Contraventions remedied	3

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

Number of shops inspected	66
Additional heating or ventilation	1
Additional sanitary conveniences	1
Exemption Certificate granted under Section 10(2)	23

WATER SUPPLY.

WELLS

New sunk	Nil
Cleansed, repaired	Nil
Closed as polluted	2

PUBLIC SUPPLY.

Area supplied	Practically whole area.
Percentage of houses supplied	99%
New cisterns provided	Nil
Cisterns cleansed, repaired, covered etc.	Nil
Number of samples obtained for analysis	
(a) from wells	3
(b) from public supply	12
Any insufficiency and where	A few houses in Mill Lane.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

CLOSETS

Number of houses with privy vaults in district	3
" of houses with pail closets in district	37
" of pail closets substituted for privy vaults	Nil
" of pail closets repaired	5
" of houses with water-closets in district	3,294
" of water-closets substituted for dry receptacles	1
" of water-closets repaired	17

DRAINS

Drains examined, tested, exposed, etc.	27
" unstopped, repaired, trapped, etc	51
Waste pipes, rain water pipes disconnected, repaired.	13
New soil pipes or ventilating shafts fixed	2
Existing soil pipes or ventilating shafts repaired	7
Drains reconstructed.	1

CESSPOOLS

Cesspools rendered impervious	1
" emptied, cleansed etc.	weekly
" abolished	Nil

DISINFECTION

Rooms disinfected	118
(a) ordinary infectious disease	101
(b) tuberculosis	8
Rooms stripped and cleansed	9
Articles disinfected or destroyed	375
(a) ordinary infectious disease	367
(b) tuberculosis	8

HOUSE REFUSE

Number of covered ashpits	7
" of uncovered ashpits	Nil
" of bins substituted for ashpits	Nil
" of houses using bins	3,327
Is refuse removed by householders or by public scavenger?	Council
How often is refuse removed from each house?	Winter Weekly twice weekly in Summer.
Number of complaints of non-removal	Practically non existent
Method of final disposal	Controlled Tip.
Are existing arrangements for refuse removal satisfactory?	Yes

NUISANCES

Total number of Nuisances during year:	
(1) Abated as result of informal action by Sanitary Inspector	91
(2) Reported to Council, Statutory notice issued	4
" " not issued	5

DETAILS OF NUISANCES ABATED.

	After Informal Intimation	After Stat. Notice.
Overcrowding	2	-
Smoke	5	-
Accumulation of refuse	22	2
Foul ditches, ponds stagnant water.	5	-
Foul pigs and other animals	19	-
Dampness	27	-
Yards re-paved or repaired	11	-
Other nuisances .	--	-

Supplementary remarks as to Sanitary Requirements of District, and extended notes from any of the foregoing entries.

Miscellaneous Visits totalled (These include visits in connection with house and trade refuse removal and disposal and visits to properties with agents, owners and builders) 576

Infectious Disease Visits	62
Visits to food premises, etc.	36
Inspections under Petroleum Acts	40
Inspections under Rats and Mice Destruction Act.	11

